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8 January 1954

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AD HOC IAC COMMITTEE (WATCH)

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's
 Conference Room, Administration Building
 Central Intelligence Agency, on 8 January 1954

Mr. Huntington D. Sheldon
 Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. William C. Trueheart, Office of the Special Assistant,
 Intelligence, Department of State
 Brigadier General John M. Willems, Deputy AC of S, G-2,
 Department of the Army
 Captain D. T. Eller (USN), Assistant Head, Intelligence
 Branch, ONI, Department of the Navy
 Brigadier General Millard Lewis, Deputy Director Intelli-
 gence, Headquarters USAF, United States Air Force
 Dr. Charles H. Reichardt, Intelligence Division, Atomic
 Energy Commission
 Colonel Neil M. Wallace, Joint Intelligence Group, The
 Joint Staff (Substitute for Rear Admiral E. T. Layton)
 Mr. Meffert W. Kuhrtz, Special Agent, Liaison Section,
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALSO PRESENT

Lt. Col. James P. Barry, Department of the Army
 Col. Howard D. Kenzie, United States Air Force
 Mr. Samuel S. Rockwell, United States Air Force

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Secretary

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The CHAIRMAN asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the eighth meeting as distributed.

GENERAL WILLEMS requested that the next-to-last line of Dr. McKee's remarks on page 3 be corrected to read "should expand its consideration beyond the strictly military limits," and that the last line be dropped.

The CHAIRMAN was also advised of a typographical error in the minutes, and receiving no further comments, said that the minutes stood approved as distributed with the foregoing corrections.

The SECRETARY circulated copies of Proposed Draft Terms of Reference Watch Committee of the IAC (Revised), dated 8 January 1954 (AHIC(W)-D-4).

MR. KUHRTZ pointed out that at an earlier meeting, the Committee had agreed to the addition in Paragraph C,2, after the word "agencies" of "relating to the imminence of hostilities."

The CHAIRMAN directed the Secretary to correct the paper accordingly.

He stated that the Committee would ultimately wish to review the Preamble and also the Mission and Functions statements dealing with "military or paramilitary action." He recommended that the Committee defer such review pending the drafting of more of the Terms of Reference. He referred the Committee to General Willems' submission appearing on page 3 of the minutes of the meeting of 11 December 1953. He called for comments on Paragraph a, which reads:

"continuously screen all pertinent intelligence information received by all National Intelligence Agencies, for indications related to the Watch Committee functions."

MR. TRUEHEART asked if "continuously" meant that the Working Group would be in session 24 hours a day on a three-shift basis.

The CHAIRMAN answered that the method of operation was not prescribed but that a watch function should be fulltime and not limited to normal Government working hours.

MR. TRUEHEART asked if it was the intention that the Working Group screen all Agencies' entire take.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the word "pertinent" defined the material to be considered by the Working Group.

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MR. TRUEHEART suggested that for consistency, the paragraph be changed to read "...information furnished by all..."

GENERAL WILLEMS stated that the word "received" had been selected to denote an active function on the part of the Working Group in assuring the acquisition of all pertinent items that come in to the member agencies.

The CHAIRMAN determined that it was the sense of the meeting that the word "received" remain.

MR. TRUEHEART recommended that the words "National Intelligence Agencies" be changed to read "IAC agencies" as he knew of no accepted definition for the former.

GENERAL LEWIS stated that all possible sources should contribute to the watch function, and said that he feared that in stipulating "IAC agencies" some possible future source might be excluded. He requested that the door be left open to permit other sources to contribute.

MR. KUHRTZ suggested that as most non-IAC sources reported to IAC agencies, a channel existed to accomplish General Lewis' aims.

The CHAIRMAN urged that the Ad Hoc Committee draft the Terms of Reference in such a manner that the broadest possible pool of information be provided. He pointed out that Paragraph c of General Willems' proposal stipulated the channels.

GENERAL WILLEMS said that he favored "IAC agencies," as he felt that the Working Group should not be required to attempt to collect its own indications but, rather, should rely on the members' home offices to do such collecting under established procedures.

The CHAIRMAN recalled the Committee's interest in the world-wide aspects of the watch function, and pointed out that if action is limited to that taken on information received by IAC agencies only, it might preclude the taking of action on an alert message sent directly to the Working Group by, for example, an overseas unit of the Strategic Air Command.

CAPTAIN ELLER warned that the establishment of direct communications channels with their attendant message centers, etc., might ultimately result in the establishment of a separate Intelligence Agency.

COLONEL WALLACE said that he favored "IAC agencies" in that this would leave the screening function with those agencies, and would require them to

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select their own material and to develop the need for outside information. He cautioned against the use of any terminology that would require the Working Group to seek indications outside the IAC complex.

GENERAL LEWIS said that he felt it most important that the Working Group see every available piece of indications information and receive everything from everywhere. Therefore, he said, he was not fully satisfied with "IAC agencies," but would accept the term tentatively, subject to later review.

The CHAIRMAN, after further discussion, stated that "IAC agencies" was tentatively accepted, subject to later review.

CAPTAIN ELLER pointed out that the last word in Paragraph a, "functions," should be changed to "mission" to correspond with the foregoing paragraphs of the Terms of Reference.

The CHAIRMAN stated that this was accepted by the Committee, and stated that the revised paragraph as tentatively accepted now reads:

"continuously screen all pertinent intelligence information received by all IAC agencies for indications relating to the Watch Committee mission."

He asked for comments on Paragraph b, which reads:

"request promptly an early evaluation and analysis of all reported indications from the intelligence agency or agencies best qualified to deal with the field of intelligence to which the indications belongs."

He stated that he felt the members of the Working Group should be substantively competent to perform the evaluating function, and recommended that the word "request" be changed to "develop" as the latter covers evaluation as performed by the Working Group or as performed by others at their request.

DR. REICHARDT said that there was a danger that the Working Group would attempt to do all evaluation, and suggested that the word "from" be changed to read "in coordination with the intelligence agency..."

The CHAIRMAN stated that both recommendations were accepted by the Committee.

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DR. REICHARDT questioned the use of the word "reported" as it suggested formal dissemination, not always present as the members of the Working Group should be extensions of their home offices and thus be in constant touch with current thinking there.

The CHAIRMAN agreed, and proposed that the word be dropped.

MR. TRUEHEART suggested that "all indications" be changed to read "each indication," and that in the last line the word "indications" be made singular.

The CHAIRMAN accepted this for the Committee, and stated that the paragraph as amended reads:

"develop promptly an early evaluation and analysis of each indication in coordination with the intelligence agency or agencies best qualified to deal with the field of intelligence to which the indication belongs."

He asked for comments on Paragraph c, which reads:

"arrange for the systematic screening by all National Intelligence Agencies of intelligence information received by them by any means for the purpose of extracting, evaluating, analyzing, and forwarding to the Indications Center all indications of Soviet-Communist intentions relating to hostilities."

MR. KUHRTZ said that he felt that the paragraph was probably too broad, but that he was willing to go along with it in the hopes that it would work.

DR. REICHARDT recommended that the paragraph under discussion be made Paragraph a, the two paragraphs already approved thus becoming b and c.

The CHAIRMAN accepted this recommendation for the Committee. He pointed out that "National Intelligence Agencies" should be changed to conform with the earlier paragraph.

MR. TRUEHEART recommended that the first line read "arrange with the IAC agencies for a systematic screening..." and suggested that the word "all" be inserted before the words "intelligence information received."

The CHAIRMAN agreed and questioned the need for the words "by any means."

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GENERAL WILLEMS replied that these words had been used to assure that all pertinent information was given to the Working Group and the Watch Committee, and that nothing was withheld for operational or other reasons.

DR. REICHARDT pointed out that the use of the words "extracting and forwarding" assured that nothing was withheld. He suggested that the inclusion of "evaluating and analyzing" might slow up the process.

The CHAIRMAN said that across-the-board evaluation was necessary wherever possible, and suggested that the words be changed to read "evaluating where appropriate, and forwarding..." This, he said, would permit an originating agency to submit an item about which it has a question without taking time for evaluation. When in the hands of the Working Group, the item would be studied in the light of all agencies' interests.

GENERAL WILLEMS excused himself from the meeting because of another appointment, and Colonel Barry took his place.

GENERAL LEWIS suggested that each agency check other agencies for intended action on an indication item or forward to the Indications Center all information which may contain indications.

MR. TRUEHEART asked if this would result in duplication in that two or more agencies might send in the same item.

COLONEL BARRY pointed out that it would be better to have an overlap than to have a gap, should each agency assume that some other was sending in the item.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the words "relating to hostilities" be changed to "as set forth in C,2 above."

He determined that the foregoing recommendations were accepted by the Committee, and stated that the paragraph, now designated a, reads:

"arrange with the IAC agencies for a systematic screening of all intelligence information received by them by any means for the purpose of promptly extracting, evaluating where appropriate, and forwarding to the Indications Center all information which may contain indications of Soviet/Communist intentions as set forth in C,2 above."

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.